

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 1, 7, 13 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 4-8 and 10-19 remain pending. Reconsideration and review of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 6-8, 12-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,438,964 to Peters. Insofar as this rejection applies to independent claims 1, 7 and 13 as amended, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to define a lock having:

a key lock mechanism, movable by an externally manipulated key, between an unlocked position and a locked position, wherein when the key lock mechanism is at the unlocked position, the holding member is at an operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is enabled such that the first manipulator is operable to move the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position, and wherein when the key lock mechanism is at the locked position, the holding member is at a non-operational position, at which movement of the holding member by the first manipulator is disabled; and

a second manipulator for opening the lid from an inner side of the box when the lid is closed, wherein the second manipulator is operable to move the holding member from the locking position to the unlocking position to disengage the latch, both when the key lock mechanism is at the locked position and at the unlocked position.

Claims 7 and 13 have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1.

Applicant contends that Peters does not disclose the second manipulator as defined in amended claims 1, 7, and 13. In particular, Peters does not describe or suggest a second manipulator that is operable to move the holding member from the locking to the unlocking position to disengage the latch, both when the key lock mechanism is at the locked position and at the unlocked position.

As stated by the Examiner, the first manipulator of Peters is handle 32, and the second manipulator of Peters is the second end 84 of latch bar 26, since end 84 operates to open the door from an inner side when the door is closed. The holding member of Peters is end 82 of latch bar

26, and the key lock mechanism of Peters is locking means 36. As noted at column 3, lines 29-42 of Peters, locking means 36 includes a locking bar 138 having ends 140 and 144. When the locking bar 138 is in its first pivotal position as shown in Figure 1, its second end 144 is clear of second end 84 of the latch bar 26. This is an operational position of latch bar 26, at which movement of the holding member by first manipulator 32 is enabled. However, when the locking means is moved to a second pivotal position using a key, its second end 144 engages second end 84 of latch bar 26 to prevent retraction of the latch bar. In other words, once the locking means is at its second pivotal position (not illustrated), the latch bar 26 can not be moved to the right to release the latch from the latch post to disengage the latch.

Therefore, it is believed that Claims 1, 7 and 13 define patentable subject matter and are allowable over Peters. Claims 2 and 4-6, Claims 8 and 10-12, and Claims 14-16 are dependent on Claims 1, 7 and 13 respectively, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, each dependent claim adds structural limitations, which, in combination with the limitations of its respective base claim, are novel and non-obvious over the prior art on which the Examiner has relied.

The Examiner rejected Claims 17-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters in view of German patent DE 19613865A1 issued to Steinbeck and Vollman.

With respect to amended independent Claim 17, none of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest a lock having a second manipulator with a fragile portion that is broken due to excessive force applied to the second manipulator, such that when said second manipulator is broken, said key lock mechanism and said holding member remain operational. As understood, the Steinbach and Vollmann reference shows a lock having a holding member that is broken due to excessive force such that the holding member is no longer operational. Thus, Claim 17 and dependent Claims 18-19 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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